

SPORTS

LBJ OPENS WITH A VICTORY

LBJ knocks off Martin in season opener

PAGE B1



NEWS

TRYING TO SURVIVE

Pakistan battered by its biggest flood.

PAGE A2



SPORTS

A TOUGH DAY FOR THE HORNS

Texas falls at the Shoe to Ohio State.

PAGE B1

YOUR NO. 1 HOMETOWN NEWS SOURCE

Laredo Morning Times

ESTABLISHED 1881



LMTONLINE.COM

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2025 VOL. 145, NO. 80 \$1.00

Murder suspect among two August suicides

By Jose De La Rosa STAFF WRITER

With Suicide Prevention Awareness Month underway, Laredo reported two suicide deaths in August, bringing the 2025 total to 15. The city is now on pace to exceed the 18 deaths recorded in 2024, with four months remaining.

Assistant Chief Ricardo Gonzalez presented the data during the most recent Laredo Suicide Prevention Committee meeting. In addition to the two deaths, Gonzalez reported 11 suicide attempts in August. Most involved women, including several teenagers, and most resulted in hospitalization, with the individuals surviving.

His remarks referred to the Aug. 10 suicide attempt by a 26-year-old Laredo police officer. She survived and was taken to a hospital in Laredo before being flown to San Antonio for further care. Gonzalez said the officer, who has been with the department for two years, remains in critical condition, "but not out of the woods yet."

"It goes to show that nobody is immune to this," he said. "I know both our departments have been really aggressive with developing these wellness programs, which include and emphasize mental well-being."

Sergio Moreno, an executive board member with the National Border Patrol Council, said the officer's case — along with a previous incident involving a veteran and Border Patrol agent earlier this year — underscores how law enforcement agencies are confronting the emotional burdens their personnel carry. He said the cases show, as Gonzalez noted, that even law enforcement is not immune. "Even the heroes on the street suffer, and more so because they get to see everything else that the community doesn't," Moreno said. "Nobody is immune to a

Suicides continues on A5



Courtesy/Marah Mendez

Left: Carlos Pena and Alfredo Rodriguez pose for a picture before the start of the Habanero Hundred marathon on Aug. 23, 2025 at 7IL Ranch.

Laredo runner finishes Habanero Hundred, the 'hottest race in Texas'

By David Gomez Jr. STAFF WRITER

A Laredoan completed "the hottest race in Texas" — the Habanero Hundred, a 100-mile race held annually in August. Alfredo Rodriguez is a family man first, enjoying quality time with his wife and three kids, but he also makes time to compete in marathons throughout Texas and beyond. In August, he decided to take part in Trail Racing Over Texas' "the hottest race in Texas" in Cat Spring, about 63 miles west of Houston. The

race is held at 7IL Ranch, which opened for public use in 1999 but has been used by families for more than five generations. With a 30-hour cut-off time, runners cover most of the 1,150 acres by competing in a 6.3-mile loop. The race also offers a unique perk — water, electricity and recreational vehicle hookups, allowing family and friends to stay onsite for morale support. With sporadic rain the day before the two-day race, temperatures reached a tolerable Texas 90 degrees with clear skies, but according to Rodriguez, the humidity was "punishing."

"One cloud! It was unbelievable because the next day, on Sunday, it got cloudy that day but we didn't get any help at all at the start," Rodriguez said. "The humidity made it worse, and there were some parts in the race where it closed up and (we) got to run underneath the shade by some trees, but the humidity was punishing in that area." Because the heat defines the Habanero Hundred, the race starts at noon. Rodriguez said this schedule allows runners to complete a portion of the miles from sunset to sunrise, followed by a push to finish at

Race continues on A5

Laredo grand jury indicts man for sexually assaulting girl

By Cesar G. Rodriguez STAFF WRITER

A man accused of having sex multiple times with a girl he met on Facebook was indicted in a Laredo federal court, according to court documents.



Erasmo Alexandro Rodriguez-Estrada

A grand jury charged Erasmo Alexandro Rodriguez-Estrada, 23, with sexual exploitation of a child, possession of child porn and illegal entry after deportation. He could face up to 20 years in prison if he is convicted along with fines and supervised release. Rodriguez-Estrada has pleaded not guilty to the allegations. On Aug. 13, he was ordered detained pending trial. A final pretrial conference is set for Oct. 9.

The case stems from a runaway report that occurred on May 19 in the 200 block of Asturias Avenue. Laredo police officers were en route to the location to clear a runaway girl from the system since she had returned home.

Jury continues on A5

Trump wants to ax affordable housing grant

By Charlotte Kramon, Jesse Bedayn, Michaela Herbst and Aaron Kessler ASSOCIATED PRESS/REPORT FOR AMERICA

Heather Colley and her two children moved four times over five years as they fled high

rents in eastern Tennessee, which, like much of rural America, hasn't been spared from soaring housing costs. A family gift in 2021 of a small plot of land offered a shot at homeownership, but building a house was beyond reach for the 45-year-old single mother and manicurist making \$18.50 an

Grant continues on A5

CONTACT US | lmtonline.com | @lmtnews | @lmtnews | OPINION: opinion@LMTOnline.com | SPORTS: sports@LMTOnline.com | EMAIL: editorial@LMTOnline.com



HAPPY LABOR DAY | Ready for a change? We are YOUR COMMUNITY Bank! Accepted Anywhere • 24 Hour ATM Access • Fast, Easy & Secure | Texas Community Bank | tx-communitybank.com | (956) 722-8333 | Member FDIC / Member Vision Bancshares, Inc. | Get it on Google play | Download on the App Store